

FARDEAU et al.
Appl. No. 10/538,715
Atty. Ref.: 1721-94
Amendment
February 18, 2011

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) An isolated bacterial strain deposited with the C.N.C.M. on December 5, 2002, under the number I-2962.

Claims 9-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) An isolated bacterial strain which is an *Exiguobacterium lactigenes* strain

said isolated bacterial strain comprising a 16S rRNA sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the genomic DNA of said isolated bacterial strain is capable of hybridizing with at least 70% of the genomic DNA of the strain deposited said isolated bacterial strain further comprising a DNA sequence, at least 70% of which is capable of hybridizing with genomic or plasmid DNA of the strain deposited on December 5, 2002, under the No. I-2962, with the Collection Nationale de Cultures de Microorganismes (C.N.C.M.),

said isolated bacterial strain being thermoresistant, saccharolytic and amylolytic and/or capable of producing L(+) lactate, and

having growth properties at temperatures of 40 to 50°C, at a pH of 5.4 to 9.15, with an optimum for growth at 45°C, at a pH of approximately 7, and a guanine plus cytosine content of its DNA of approximately 50 mol%.